

REMARKS

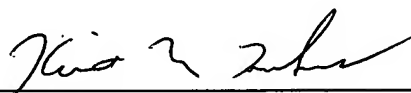
This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 17, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 23 - 30 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 23 - 30 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 23 - 30 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,709 and claims 5-8 and 13-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,563. Applicant encloses a terminal disclaimer with this response. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32, 008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)